

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8879

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 3214

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: JUNTA VIEWS: GENERAL LEIGH

REFS: SANTIAGO 3154; SANTIAGO 3182; SANTIAGO 3193

1. SUMMARY: JUNTA MEMBER AND AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH HIS RECENT U.S. TRIP AND GENERAL RELATIONS WITH U.S. AIR FORCE. BLOCKS OUT GENERAL NATURE OF JUNTA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS, ON WHICH JUNTA LAYS GREAT STRESS. ENVISIONS REACTIVATION OF TRADE UNIONS, AND LABOR CONTROL OVER A NATIONAL CREDIT SYSTEM FOR WORKERS. DESCRIBES PUBLIC OPINION POLLING ORGANIZED TO KEEP JUNTA IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL SENTIMENT. END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR MADE SEPARATE CALLS ON THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT JUNTA PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATION. HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING WITH JUNTA MEMBER LEIGH JUNE 4 FOLLOW:

3. LEIGH VISIT TO U.S. GENERAL LEIGH SAID HE WANTED AMBASSADOR TO KNOW THAT ALL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO AMERICAN AIR FORCE COMMANDERS CONFERENCE AT COLORADO SPRINGS HAD BEEN ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID. HE COULD NOT HAVE ASKED FOR BETTER TREATMENT IN ANY RESPECT.

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4. U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CHILEAN AIR FORCE. LEIGH SAID HE HAD MENTIONED AIR FORCE NEEDS TO USAF CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL BROWN AT THE CONFERENCE AND HAD LEFT A MEMORANDUM WITH HIM. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL BROWN REPORTING THAT HIS REQUESTS ARE BEING STAFFED, IN PREPARATION FOR A SUBSTANTIVE REPLY.

5. SOCIAL PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUERY, GENERAL LEIGH GAVE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF GOC'S SOCIAL PROGRAM.

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. PILOT PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INAUGURATED IN FOUR PROVINCES (MAGALLANES, CONCEPCION, SANTIAGO AND TARAPACA) TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK FOR PLANNING NOW UNDERWAY TO INSTITUTE THE PROGRAM NATIONWIDE IN 1975. FOR FIRST TIME IN CHILEAN HISTORY, INTENDENTES OF PROVINCES INCLUDED IN PROGRAM HAVE BEEN GIVEN GOALS FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT. HERETOFORE, CHILEAN MINISTRIES HAVE SIMPLY DONE WHAT THEY COULD WITH EACH YEAR'S BUDGET ALLOCATIONS BUT WITHOUT ANY COORDINATED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC, IDENTIFIABLE GOALS. STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF THIS PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS: GENERAL LEIGH CHAIRS THE MINISTERIAL SOCIAL COMMITTEE, WHICH MEETS EVERY THURSDAY. IN THIS COMMITTEE, DIRECTOR OF ODEPLAN, THE GOVERNMENT PLANNING AGENCY, ACTS TO HARMONIZE THE PROPOSALS OF INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES AND JUDGE THEIR FEASIBILITY IN TERMS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES. DECISIONS APPROVED BY THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE GO TO JUNTA FOR REVIEW. ONCE APPROVED THERE, THEY ARE TRANSMITTED TO APPROPRIATE PROVINCIAL INTENDENTES AND TOWN MAYORS. UNDER THIS PROGRAM, MAYORS HAVE KEY ACTION RESPONSIBILITY. EACH MAYOR OPERATES WITH THE ADVICE OF LOCAL ADVISORY GROUPS SUCH AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS AND THE CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAM ARE DERIVED FROM PUBLIC BUDGET RESOURCES, PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL BORROWINGS. ACCORDING TO LEIGH, RESPONSE AND COOPERATION FROM CHILEAN PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING.

B. INFANT FEEDING PROGRAM. GOC CONTINUES TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON THIS PROGRAM, DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL NUTRITIONAL NEEDS TO INFANTS FROM BIRTH TO TWO YEARS OF AGE. UNDER LEADERSHIP OF DR. F. MONCKEBERG, MINISTRY OF HEALTH NUTRITIONIST, GOC NOW HAS TWO PLANTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION WHICH WILL PRODUCE A HIGH

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PROTEIN FOOD PRODUCT WITH A SOY BEAN BASE. DURING INITIAL OPERATION, THESE PLANTS WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON SOY IMPORTS FROM U.S., BUT SOY BEAN PRODUCTION IS NOW BEING REINSTITUTED IN CHILE WITH VIEW TO PROVIDING DOMESTIC SUPPLY.

C. SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM, DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FREE SCHOOL LUNCHS TO OLDER CHILDREN, ALSO GOES FORWARD.

D. DAY CARE CENTER PROGRAM. GOC IS ESTABLISHING 3,000 DAY CARE CENTERS, WHERE CHILDREN UP TO FOUR YEARS OF AGE WILL BE FED, CARED FOR, AND GIVEN USEFUL PSYCHOMOTOR ACTIVITY WHILE THEIR MOTHERS WORK.

6. LABOR.

A. LEIGH AGREED ORGANIZED LABOR CANNOT FOR TIME BEING HOLD ELECTIONS, STAGE STRIKES, OR ENGAGE IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, BUT STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT ELECTIONS FOR TRADE UNION OFFICES EVENTUALLY WILL BE HELD. FOR THE MOMENT, HE SAID, LABOR'S ROLE IN THE SOCIAL PROGRAM IS PROVIDED FOR IN TWO FEATURES OF THE SOCIAL STATUTE FOR ENTERPRISE. LEIGH NOTED THAT THE STATUTE ACCEPTS PLURALISM IN THE ORGANIZATION OF ENTERPRISES, RANGING FROM THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF TOTAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL BY ENTREPRENEUR THROUGH VARIOUS KINDS OF MIXED ENTERPRISE TO WORKER COOPERATIVES. HOWEVER, WHATEVER FORM OF ENTERPRISE, STATUTE ASSURES WORKERS OF THREE FORMS OF PARTICIPATION: PARTICIPATION WITH MANAGEMENT IN THE JUNTA DE EMPRESA, WHERE MANAGEMENT IS OBLIGED TO MAKE INFORMATION ABOUT ENTERPRISE AVAILABLE TO WORKERS; PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO UP-GRADE SKILLS, WHICH MANAGEMENT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE; AND PARTICIPATION THROUGH WORKER CONTROL OF SOCIAL WELFARE FUNDS OF ENTERPRISE.

B. LEIGH SAID JUNTA HAS OTHER OBJECTIVES FOR FUTURE ACHIEVEMENT WHICH INVOLVE LABOR. INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISES ARE NOW REQUIRED TO ACCUMULATE SOCIAL BENEFIT FUNDS TO COVER THEIR WORKERS. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THESE ARE SINKING FUNDS TO COVER SEVERANCE PAY REQUIREMENTS PLUS ANY RETIREMENT AND/OR OTHER FRING BENEFITS ENTERPRISE HAS AGREED TO PAY ITS EMPLOYEES. THESE FUNDS ARE SEPARATE FROM DEPOSITS TO VARIOUS SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDS AND ARE UNDER EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF MANAGEMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMENT) GOC INTENDS TO POOL THESE INDIVIDUAL FUNDS TO CREATE A SINGLE, NATIONAL FUND WHOSE ASSETS WOULD BE USED FOR CREDIT SYSTEM FOR WORKERS. THIS SYSTEM WOULD BE CONTROLLED BY REPRESENTATIVES CHOSEN BY WORKERS AND ADMINISTERED BY PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES HIRED BY THE WORKER DIRECTORS OF THE SYSTEM, WITHOUT GOC INTERFERENCE. SECONDLY, GOC LOOKS TOWARD ORGANIZATION OF INDUSTRY-WIDE UNION ORGANIZATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED BY RANK AND FILE. MADE NO COMMENT RE OVERALL NATIONAL TRADE UNION FEDERATION.

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7. PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS. LEIGH ACKNOWLEDGED HIS STAFF INCLUDES A PUBLIC OPINION POLLING ORGANIZATION, HEADED BY A PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST TRAINED IN POLLING TECHNIQUES (A PROFESSOR TOANE). HE SAID EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO AVOID POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN OBTAINING RESULTS, NOTING THAT POLLSTERS ARE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHOSE CONNECTION WITH GOVERNMENT IS SO CONCEALED THAT IN ONE POLL CONDUCTED, EIGHTEEN OF POLLSTERS WERE ARRESTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. LEIGH SAID ONLY TWO POLLS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED THUS FAR, ONE IN GREATER SANTIAGO IN DECEMBER AND A SECOND, SAMPLING OPINION IN SEVERAL PROVINCES, IN MARCH. GENERAL SAID THE SUPPORT REVEALED IN THESE POLLS IS OF SUCH A MAGNITUDE AS TO CONSTITUTE A REAL CHALLENGE TO THE JUNTA TO PRODUCE RESULTS. HE SAID ONE POLL HAD ASKED QUESTION WHETHER JUNTA SHOULD CONTINUE TO GOVERN ALONE, WHETHER THE JUNTA SHOULD GOVERN WITH POLITICAL PARTIES, OR WHETHER THE JUNTA SHOULD LEAVE GOVERNMENT. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (OF THE ORDER OF 75 PERCENT) SUPPORTED JUNTA'S CONTINUING TO GOVERN ALONE. LEIGH OFFERED TO MAKE COPIES OF POLLING RESULTS AVAILABLE TO US FOR EXAMINATION.

8. COMMENT: AS JUNTA MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL SIDE OF GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES, LEIGH HAS BEEN MOVING ENERGETICALLY IN EFFORT TO PUT SOME SUBSTANCE INTO JUNTA'S CLAIM THAT IT IS GUIDED BY SOCIAL AND HUMANISTIC CONSIDERATIONS. DIFFICULT TO TELL WHETHER EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD
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NUTRITION PLANS WILL MAKE LASTING IMPACT, BUT LEIGH IS CLEARLY DETERMINED TO GIVE THEM A GOOD INTIAL PUSH. REGIME OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO KEEP ITS FINGER ON THE PUBLIC PULSE, BUT LEIGH'S REVEALING COMMENT RE ARREST OF POLLSTERS INDICATES IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO GET HONEST OPINIONS REGARDING JUNTA PERFORMANCE THROUGH INDIVIDUAL INQUIRY. BETTER OBJECTIVE TEST OF PUBLIC REACTION IS PROVIDED BY MASS REACTION TO SPECIAL EVENTS: FOR EXAMPLE, BY RESPONSE OF SLUM AREA INHABITANTS TO APPEARANCES MADE BY LEADING GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL. ON THIS BASIS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IN GENERAL, SUPPORT FOR JUNTA REMAINS QUITE STRONG. THOMPSON

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